

Serial No. 10/004,825
Amendment
Response to Office Action mailed August 8, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for installing software in a user's computer which is customized according to a user's order and is supplied to a user under a built-to-order (BTO) scheme, the method comprising:

storing identification information of the user's computer system and first system configuration information, associated with the identification information, indicating hardware components of the user's computer system;

storing software components required for operation of each of the hardware components;

accepting from the user's computer system the identification information of the user's computer system and second system configuration information collected by the user's computer system indicating hardware components of the user's computer system; and

sending, to the user's computer system, the software components required for operation of the hardware components of the user's computer system that are determined from both the stored first system configuration information associated with the accepted identification information and the accepted second system configuration information; and

managing the first system configuration information so as to update the first system configuration information with the second system configuration information.

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2. (Original) The software installation method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

managing, for an individual user, a fee for the software sent to the user's computer system; and

collecting the fee from the user.

3. (Currently Amended) A system method for installing software in a user's computer which is customized according to a user's order and is supplied to a user under a built-to-order (BTO) scheme, ~~the method~~ comprising:

a first database for storing software components required for operation of hardware components of a computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer system supplied to a user, and first system configuration information associated with the identification information indicating hardware components of the computer system;

accepting means for accepting from the user's computer system the identification information given to the user's computer system and second system configuration information collected by the user's computer system indicating hardware components of the user's computer system;

first determining means for determining system configuration information which corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

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second determining means for determining the software components required for operation of the hardware components indicated both in the first system configuration information and in the accepted second system configuration information, with reference to the first database; and

sending means for sending the determined software components to the user's computer system; and

managing means for managing the first system configuration information stored in the second database so as to update the first system configuration information with the second system configuration information.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for installing software in a user's computer which is customized according to a user's order and is supplied to a user under a built-to-order (BTO) scheme, the method comprising the steps of:

sending identification information identifying a first computer system and second system configuration information collected by the first computer system indicating hardware components of the first computer system to a second computer system;

accepting, in response to the above step, at least one software component required for operation of at least one hardware component of the first computer system, which is indicated in both the first system configuration information stored in the second computer which corresponds to the identification information sent from the first computer system and the second system configuration information sent by said first computer system; and

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conducting setup processing in order to make the at least one software component accepted in the accepting step into an executable state in the first computer; and managing the first system configuration information stored in the second computer so as to update the first system configuration information with the second system configuration information.

5. (Original) The software installation method according to claim 4, wherein the first computer system reads and executes a specified installation software which is stored in a specified storage medium.

6. (Previously Presented) The software installation method according to claim 5, further comprising a step of storing the at least one software component which the first computer system receives from the second computer system.

7. (Currently Amended) A storage medium having software stored thereon for making a computer system, which has a memory in which identification information identifying the computer system is stored, execute a function of installing a specified software onto the computer system, wherein,

the software comprises the functions of:

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sending the identification information and first system configuration information collected by the computer system indicating hardware components of the computer system to another computer system;

accepting, following the sending of the identification information, at least one software component required for operating a hardware component of the computer system sent from the another computer system and indicated in both second system configuration information stored in the another computer which corresponds to the identification information sent from the computer system and the first system configuration information sent by said computer system; and

conducting setup processing in order to make the accepted at least one software component into an executable state; and

managing the second system configuration information stored in the another computer so as to update the second system configuration information with the first system configuration information.

8. (Currently Amended) An installation system for a client/server system comprising a first computer system and a second computer system, by which software is installed onto the first computer system,

wherein the first computer system comprises:

means for storing identification information for identifying the first computer system;

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means for collecting first system configuration information by the first computer system indicating hardware components of the first computer system;

_____ means for connecting the first computer system to the second computer system and for sending the identification information and the first system configuration information to the second computer system, in accordance with recovery instructions; and

first accepting means for accepting at least one software component sent from the second computer system, and

wherein the second computer system comprises:

a first database for storing software components required for operation of hardware components of the first computer system;

a second database for storing the identification information for identifying the first computer system, and second system configuration information indicating the hardware components of the first computer system;

accepting means for accepting, from the first computer system, the identification information of the first computer system;

first determining means for determining the second system configuration information which corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining the software components required for operation of the hardware components of the first computer system indicated in both the first and second system configuration information, with reference to the first database; and

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sending means for sending the determined software components to the first computer system; and

managing means for managing the second system configuration information stored in the second database so as to update the second system configuration information with the first system configuration information.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for installing software in a user's computer which is customized according to a user's order and is supplied to a user under a built-to-order (BTO) scheme, ~~the method comprising:~~

a first database for storing first system configuration information indicating hardware components of a user's computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer system of a user and the first system configuration information of the user's computer system;

an accepting means for accepting from the user's computer system the identification information given to the user's computer system and second system configuration information collected by the user's computer system indicating hardware components of the user's computer system;

first determining means for determining system configuration information which corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

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second determining means for determining the software components corresponding to both the first ~~the~~ system configuration information based on the identification information of the user's computer system determined with reference to the first database and the second system configuration information collected by the user's computer system; and

sending means for sending the determined software components to the user's computer system; and

managing means for managing the first system configuration information stored in the second database so as to update the first system configuration information with the second system configuration information.

12-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An installation system for a client/server system constituted by a first computer system and a second computer system, by which software is installed onto the first computer system,

wherein the first computer system comprises:

means for storing identification information for identifying the first computer system;

means for collecting first system configuration information by the first computer system indicating hardware components of the first computer system;

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means for connecting the first computer system to the second computer system and for sending the identification information and the first system configuration information to the second computer system, in accordance with recovery instructions; and

first accepting means for accepting software sent from the second computer system, and

wherein the second computer system comprises:

a first database for storing software components required for operation of hardware components of the first computer system;

a second database for storing identification information for identifying a computer system supplied to a user, and ~~the second~~ system configuration information associated with the identification information indicating hardware components of the first computer system;

accepting means for accepting, from the first computer system, the identification information of the first computer system;

first determining means for determining the second system configuration information which corresponds to the accepted identification information, with reference to the second database;

second determining means for determining the software components required for operation of the hardware components indicated in both the first and second system configuration information, with reference to the first database; and

sending means for sending the determined software components to the first computer system; and

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managing means for managing the second system configuration information stored in the second database so as to update the second system configuration information with the first system configuration information.

17. (Previously Presented) A software installation method according to claim 1, wherein the software components are device drivers and the hardware components are peripheral devices of the user's computer system.

18. (Currently Amended) A software installation ~~method~~ system according to claim 3, wherein the software component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the user's computer system.

19. (Previously Presented) A software installation method according to claim 4, wherein the software component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the first computer system.

20. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 7, wherein the software component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the computer system.

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21. (Previously Presented) An installation system for a client/server system according to claim 8, wherein the software component is a device driver and the hardware component is a peripheral device of the first computer system.

22. (Currently Amended) A software installation ~~method-system~~ according to claim 11, wherein the software component is a device driver of a peripheral device of the user's computer system.

23. (Previously Presented) An installation system for a client/server system according to claim 16, wherein the software component is a device driver of a peripheral device of the first computer system.